

## Message Text

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51  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 EA-06

SAJ-01 BIB-01 NIC-01 PM-03 NSC-05 SS-15 NSCE-00 SAM-01

/058 W  
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O 281425Z JAN 75  
FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1820  
INFO AMCONSUL ZAGREB IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652:NN/A  
TAGS: PFOR YO  
SUBJ: ASSESSMENT OF NY TIMES STORY ON YUGOSLAV PRESS TREATMENT  
OF U.S.

REF: BELGRADE 0248

1. WE FIND BROWNE ARTICLE ESSENTIALLY ACCURATE BUT LACKING  
BALANCE.

2. SINCE IT REACHES BACK FOR PERIOD OF NEARLY A YEAR  
(I.E. TO THE TIME OF THE TRIESTE ZONE B DISPUTE IN EARLY  
1974), FOR EVENTS TO ILLUSTRATE HIS CONTENTION, ARTICLE GIVES THE  
IMPRESSION OF HIGHER INTENSITY OF CRITICISM THAN IS PRESENT.

3. BROWNE ACCURATELY PORTRAYS THE RECENT HIGH LEVEL OF  
YUGOSLAV COMMENT RE VIETNAM ASSOCIATED WITH THE ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE PARIS ACCORDS. THIS HAS NOT HOWEVER EXCEEDED THE  
LEVEL WE HAVE LONG SINCE COME TO EXPECT OF SUCH COMMENT  
WHEN THERE IS AN OCCASION CALLING FOR IT FROM THEIR POINT  
OF VIEW (E.G., THE PRESS CAMPAIGN ON VIETNAM IN DECEMBER  
IN CONNECTION WITH SOLIDARITY WEEK WITH LIBERATION  
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MOVEMENTS).

4. THE ARTICLE ALSO COULD BE MISLEADING TO THE UNINFORMED READER WHO MIGHT GET THE IMPRESSION THAT THE VJESNIK ARTICLE ON THE ORLY ATTACK WAS REPRESENTATIVE OF YUGOSLAV PRESS COVERAGE. AS POINTED OUT IN REFTEL, IT WAS THE EXCEPTION AND WAS ESSENTIALLY REPUDIATED BY VJESNIK ITSELF IN A FRONT-PAGE ARTICLE THE FOLLOWING DAY.

5. BROWNE REPORTS LJUBLJANA'S DELO CRITICIZING SECRETARY KISSINGER, BUT DOES NOT MENTION THAT IT WAS THE ONLY NEWSPAPER IN YUGOSLAVIA WHICH FULLY REPORTED HIS COMMENTS REGARDING "STRANGULATION" FROM THE BUSINESS WEEK INTERVIEW - A FACT WHICH BROWNE WAS TOLD BY THE EMBASSY.

6. AS FOR THE EMBASSY'S "COMPLAINT" TO TANJUG, IT IS PLACED IN A MISLEADING CONTEXT BY USE OF THE ADJECTIVE "UNUSUAL". WE ROUTINELY BRING TO THE ATTENTION OF ALL MEDIA IN YUGOSLAVIA ANY INSTANCE WHICH WE CONSIDER CONSISTUTES DISTORTION OR MISSTATEMENT OF FACT, OR IMBALANCE IN COVERAGE. SOMETIMES THIS IS DONE ORALLY, SOMETIMES IN WRITING IF WE FEEL THAT WILL BE MORE EFFECTIVE. THIS WAS DESCRIBED TO BROWNE BY THE ACTING PAO IN AN "ON BACKGROUND" DISCUSSION ABOUT 10 DAYS AGO, AND THE POINT WAS SPECIFICALLY MADE THAT WE DO THIS AS A MATTER OF COURSE.

5. EMBASSY BELIEVES INQUIRIES REGARDING BROWNE ARTICLE CAN BE RESPONDED TO BY SAYING THAT WHILE BROWNE IS OF COURSE AN EXPERIENCED AND KNOWLEDGEABLE REPORTER WE DO NOT ALWAYS AGREE WITH HIS PERCEPTIONS AND ASSESSMENTS. THE ABOVE POINTS THEN COULD BE MADE WITH REGARD TO THE SPECIFIC ALLEGATIONS IN THE ARTICLE.

TOON

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, PARAMILITARY FORCES, COMBAT OPERATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 28 JAN 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** MorefiRH  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975BELGRA00401  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750031-0263  
**From:** BELGRADE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750116/aaaaanms.tel  
**Line Count:** 93  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 BELGRADE 0248  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** MorefiRH  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 19 MAY 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <19 MAY 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <19 MAY 2003 by MorefiRH>  
**Review Markings:**  

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ASSESSMENT OF NY TIMES STORY ON YUGOSLAV PRESS TREATMENT OF U.S.  
**TAGS:** PFOR, YO, ORLY AIRPORT  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006